SACRED DANCE GUILD. NEWSLETTER.

SPRING, 1971

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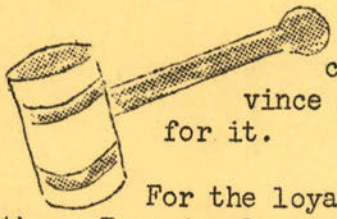
A COMMUNICATION FROM OUR PRESIDENT



You are being asked to elect a new president this June because developments in our lives, unforeseen 19 months ago convince me that SDG can be better served than I have been able to do for it.

For the loyal support and great effort of the officers who have served with me I am deeply grateful. The success of SDG is built upon the work of such as you.

President-elect Maxine DeBruyn brings the youth and energy we need, but also experience in teaching, since she has built up a dance minor course at Hope College these past six years. Before that she taught in Newton, Mass. Her training is dance is from Michigan colleges plus work with Martha Graham, Mary Anthony and Ted Shawn at Jacob's Pillow. She was asked to lead the adult group who had started at Hope Reformed Church six years ago, and has led them in many church services as well as lecture demonstrations for AAUW, teachers, alumni clubs throughout southwest Michigan. With the other new and continuing officers our faithful Nominating Committee have presented I feel sure that SDG will make good progress.

There is much to be done -- build up our membership, find ways to increase our Ruby Henderson Scholarship Fund, somehow seek to take or help in responsibility for religious dance films; revise our kit which is nearly exhausted -- above all, to communicate. The plan for regional development is slowly growing, but it so far depends upon active leadership in isolated areas. What could you do to help? Please send me your ideas, suggestions before the June Institute. We'll be having a business meeting then. Try to come, but if you can't send your letters.

I shall continue to serve SDG wherever and however I can. As long as we are in Grand Rapids, I'll work closely with Maxine. When we move in about two years I'll pick up wherever we relocate. And when traveling, which will be frequent, I'll try to contact SDG members and tell prospective members about SDG.

It has been an honor. I wish I could have done more.

Sincerely,

Virginia R. D Lucke

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JUNE INSTITUTE

June 22-25, 1971 Murray Grove Lanoka Harbor, N.J.

REGISTER NOW!

$5.00 deposit per individual. Deposit refundable only if workshop is cancelled. Registrations due by June 15th. Make all checks out to Rev. Daren L. Miller, registrar, and send to Rev. Miller at 47 Main St., Stony Point, N.Y. 10980. Telephone 914-786-3355.

Registration 5:00 p.m. Evening meal 6:00 p.m. Assembly 7:30 p.m.

COST (includes meals, room and workshop fee):
Adult SDG Member $40.00 Adult non-member $45.00 Student (HS or College) $32.00

Boys and/or girls girls desiring to serve in dining room should indicate so and will be accepted for flat fee of $5.00 for the entire time. You will be notified and if more are needed than six we will sign same on basis of order in which registrations are received.

STAFF

TONI INTRAVAIA
Dance director, choreographer, treasurer of SDG. Toni will have warmups, technique classes, etc.

CLEM BURTON
Organist-choirmaster, First U.M. Church, Middletown, Ohio; on SDG Board of Directors. Will lead classes on interpretation of music, poems, choral readings, etc.

Both of our instructors are SDG members and have had much training and background in sacred dance. We are asking that each registrant bring music, poems, readings, etc., that you want to work on for interpretation and guidance by Mr. Burton. Daren Miller and Bob Yohn will direct the discussion and fellowship periods -- and perhaps other surprises!

FULL TIME ATTENDANCE IS ENCOURAGED FOR TOTAL EFFECTIVENESS. Those interested or planning to attend one day, please inform the registrar and if our quota is not filled for full time attendance by June 16th we will notify you of your acceptance at the rate of $10.00 for a day. -

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

I desire, if possible, to room with _____

Please check: SDG MEMBER____ NON-MEMBER____ STUDENT(HIGH SCHOOL__ COLLEGE__)

MALE____ FEMALE____ DANCER____ DIRECTOR____ OTHER (specify)_____
Do not write below; for registrar's use.

Group assigned to _____ Room assigned to _____ Rooming with _____

MORE ABOUT OUR LEADERS:

TONI INTRAVAIA: Toni has been involved in sacred dance for over 25 years and in SDG since 1951. She has served on the Executive Board as corresponding secretary and currently as treasurer. She is a member of the Dance Notation Bureau and other dance-related professional organizations, and has lectured widely in many states. She is currently lecturer for Southern Illinois University in the biology department, and is dance notator on human systems research for the university. Toni has had many dance-related articles published and has her own creative dance studio for pre-school through teenagers. She is the director of the Children's Ballet Theatre, Modern Repertory Company and of the Children's Concert Series in Illinois.

CLEMENT R. BURTON: Clem is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University and has been the director of music for Moravian, Lutheran and Methodist churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He directs two dance choirs - one of young girls, one of adult men and women which toured Japan in 1969 and now is making plans for a 1972 tour. Clem has directed workshops for the Choristers's Guild and is currently on the SDG Board of Directors. He is organist-choirmaster for the First United Methodist Church of Middletown, Ohio.

MURRAY GROVE is set in the New Jersey pines on 260 acres of nature's best land near Barnegat Bay. It is an ideal vacation site, with modern lodgings and a pool with life guard. There are spacious grounds for hiking, family-style meals, and courteous service by the staff. Bring casual clothes, comfortable shoes, swimsuit and cap, dance clothes, a robe (showers are shared), notebooks, pencils, etc., and by all means bring YOURSELF!! There are no single rooms available unless space becomes available because room reservations are not used -- but we hope to fill all the space. Be a "Committee of One" and bring someone along -- men, boys, women, girls -- all who are interested in this field of the creative arts as a means of expression for their faith.

DIRECTIONS: Murray Grove Camp Association at Lanoka Harbor, N.J. along Rte. 9 south of Toms River. From NYC: Lincoln Transit & Public Service Buses every hour until 7:30 p.m. from the Port Authority Terminal, 41st & 8th Ave., N.Y.C. By car: Garden State Pkwy south to Rte. 9 at Toms River, then south on Rte. 9; Garden State Pkwy. north to exit 63, Rte. 72 east to Rte. 9 and north. From West, via N.J. 70 and 72 to Rte. 9 and north. Buses from N.Y.C. stop at Murray Grove if the driver is requested to do so.

The telephone number at Murray Grove, should you need to be contacted there, is 609-693-5558.

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Detach and mail to registrar by June 15th.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee submits the following ballot to be voted on by mail by members of the Sacred Dance Guild. The office of Regional Publicity Chairman is unfilled after contact five members who were unable to serve. Because of the shortness of time, the ballot will be incomplete. We ask that anyone who is available to serve this position volunteer. If no volunteer comes forth we ask that the incoming president appoint a member to fill this position.

PRESIDENT: Maxine DeBruyn, Zeeland, Michigan
VICE PRESIDENT: Gladys Kanter, Lexington, Massachusetts
RECORDING SECRETARY: Sarah Parker, New York City, N.Y.
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Kay Clark, Grand Rapids, Michigan
TREASURER: ~~Toni Intravaia, Carbondale, Illinois~~
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: Wendy Hartman, Pleasant Valley, N.Y.
NATIONAL PUBLICITY: Merolyn Parker, Albertson, N.Y.

Regional Publicity Personnel
OUTREACH: Alma Tucker, Bronx, N.Y.
CALIFORNIA: Douglas Adams, San Mateo, California
CONNECTICUT:
MASSACHUSETTS: Jary Yoos, Lexington, Massachusetts
MID-WEST: Patricia Harper, Grand Rapids, Michigan
NORTHWEST: Virginia Huffine, Rochester, Minnesota
NEW JERSEY & PENNSYLVANIA: Anryde Thorpe, Mendham, New Jersey
NEW YORK: Sally Steinmetz, Mount Kisco, N.Y.
MAINE, N.H., VERMONT: Priscilla Richardson, Marlborough, N.H.

Board of Direstors (3-year term)
Virginia Lucke, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Judith Anderson, Saginaw, Michigan
Robert Yohn, New York City, N.Y.

The incoming president will appoint a member to the board to fill out the term of Gladys Kanter.

The ballot is to be enclosed in the next Newsletter and will be drawn up in such a manner that members may return the ballot as soon as possible so that results will be announced at the June Institute and in the following Newsletter.

This report is submitted by the Nominating Committee: Betty Dean Hydon, chairman, Millie Slier and Wendy Hartman.

FOLLOWUP ON JUNE INSTITUTE, MURRAY GROVE, N.J., 1970

Attendance 60 (8 junior high, 17 senior high, 23 under 25 yrs. of age, 13 under 40 yrs. of age, 3 over 40, plus 1 program director and 2 instructors; a total of 5 males, 55 females.

Mr. Charles Creegan and Mr. Robert Yohn taught sessions that led to the discovery that "sensitive interpretations, natural movements and the dynamics of different rhythms all make up dance, and that dance, religion and life are one. From the most simple forms to the more difficult and dynamic -- all are expressions of one's self and one's faith", according to program chairman, Daren Miller. "The brief meditations taken from contemporary sources by your Program Chairman, were designed to have all of us think about ourselves, that in reaching out and exploring means of communication, we come to know each other and ourselves in a spirit of love. Herein we find the God-within-us who constantly gives us the ability to express beauty, love and truth."

The evaluations emphasized that a person who comes expecting and anticipating a learning experience finds it. If not a new step, idea, rhythms, music, choreography it is the spiritual bond of fellowship between like-minded people devoted to this particular art. "It was all the beautiful people in the workshop that made it worthwhile", so the evaluation sheets said.

Participants cooperated in short and long assignments of dance studies which were evaluated by instructors and classes. Topping was three polished dances presented by the Sacred Dance Guild of Miami, directed by Diana Avery. The group relaxed with Jess Gordon's guitar leading singing, a unifying and uplifting finish to a full day. As a bonus, a profit of $123.57 was realized for the SDG treasury.

MID-WINTER WORKSHOP, February, 1971, Summit, N.J.

Evaluations have not yet come in for the February Workshop held at Central Presbyterian Church, Summit, N.J., but program chairman Daren Miller provides the following brief report.

Fifty-five present for Friday dinner; Gladys Kanter and Edward Roll providing leadership, a profit of $173.70 realized to further SDG activities.

SDG thanks Daren and his committee of Pat Sonen and Robert Yohn for June, 1970 and Gladys Kanter for February, 1971. You have carried on one of the goals of SDG with great success. Especial note should be taken of the $10.00 scholarships offered to high school SDG members these past two workshops. As president, I feel this both high tribute to Ruby Henderson, who worked so well with young people, and a very important investment in the future of SDG. Could we not put on

Spotlight

ON

NEW MEMBERS

[redacted]

SUMMER EVENTS:

July 23-30 Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Pa., "Exploring Creative Movement" Nancy Prock and Christopher Beck, leaders. "Man has physical as well as spiritual dimensions. Dancers know from experience that bodily well-being influences mind and spirit in many ways. They know the satisfaction of being at home in their bodies and of transcending their limitations in the freedom of creative movement, the joy of dancing. The workshop is designed to enable others to share in this experience. No previous dance experience is necessary, though any background in sustained and directed movement, such as hiking or swimming, can be helpful. Good health is a prerequisite, but youth is not, as the work will be geared to the ability and interest of the participants.. . . . Nancy Brock studied modern dance primarily with Hanya Holm and Mary Wigman. She has taught at Hollins College, Purdue Univ., and Hampton Institute, and now teaches at Roanoke Collehe and the Salem (VA.) YWCA. She has presented her solo program on 'The Dance in Worship ' at Friends meetings and schools. Christopher Beck has studied dance dance with Irving Burton, Judith Dunn, Ruth Currier, Merce Cunningham and Viola Farber. He teaches in New Jersey and lives in New York City where he performs in the Cliff Keuter Com. and with Elina Mooney. Both leaders are founders of the Roanoke-Blacksburg Friends Meeting." The workshop will be limited to 25 participants, beginning with dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 23 and end with breakfast Friday, July 30. Cost $75.00. For more information write "Summer Events", Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Pa. 19086.

July 25-31 Folk Rock Camp. West Michigan Conference of the UM Church, Lake Louise at Boyne Falls, Michigan. "A new concept in camp programming designed to give the participant help in discovering his talents in four major areas: drama, dance, folk rock and creative worship. Registrar: Mrs. Andrew Schmidtman, R.R. #2, Box 346, Benton Harbor, Mich. 49022.

ARKANSAS

CAROLYN HASTINGS, director, First Congregational Church Sacred Dance Choir, reports her group will participate with vocal choirs in Choir Recognition Sunday, dancing theme music from "Man and His World" exhibit at EXPO 67. Dancers will come from various points in congregation in street clothes.

ARIZONA

ELEANOR KING, associate professor of dramatic arts at the University of Arkansas, has been the moving force behind a varied and exciting exploration of sacred dance in her part of the country. Most recent projects include "Abraham and Isaac", music by Benjamin Britten, choreographed by Paul Jackson and presented by the Dance Workshop of the university under Miss King's direction. The work, which was commissioned by Faith Methodist Church of Tulsa, was presented as part of a panel discussion on the arts at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith. Earlier in 1970 Miss King, who is also an authority on Japanese dance, worked with the sisters of Saint Scholastica's Convent in Fort Smith in creative movement, while her university workshop demonstration performance won a standing ovation and the inclusion of dance in the convent's centennial celebration scheduled for this year. Workshop performances include "A Praise" (the 8th Psalm), "Prophecy", "Angel Concert", "Roads to Hell: pride, sloth, envy, wrath", "Penitente", "Three Lamentations of Jeremiah", and "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring". Music ranges from Purcell to Hindemith to plain-song. Much of Miss King's work has originated within the setting of the university's "Theatre of the Imagination" series, but its content and quality are such that it is much in demand in area churches. She is also the author of "The Way of Japanese Dance", published by the University of Washington Press and illustrated with brush and ink drawings.

CALIFORNIA

Over 100 registrants danced through the halls and into the nave of Sacramento's Pioneer Congregational Church to begin the "Creativity in Celebration Worship" workshop held in March. Many congregational dancing patterns were explored during the worship services and the workshop. To accomodate so many moving, participants formed concentric circles around the communion table and all danced together. SDG member DOUG ADAMS designed the choreographies for the events, sponsored by the Northern California Conferences of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Churches through the Enabling Company.

MARGIT WERRES is teaching courses in sacred dance at Star King Divinity School in Berkeley, and also leads a group of area Jesuits in dance.

DOUG ADAMS occasionally dances "Ring Around the Rosie" with children in the Sunday morning worship at College Heights Church in San Mateo to help all sed and be caught up in the joyful Christian attitude to death (this joyful song-dance was an early Christian ritual in England).

Ecumenical workshops in "Creativity in Celebration Worship" will be held in Concord on June 4 and 5. Worshops will feature use of congregational dancing, as well as drama and laughter, recordings and music, posters, lighting, film, prayer, etc. For further details write The Enabling Company, 2700 "L" Street, Sacramento 95816. A variety of resources is available from The Enabling Company; further details will appear in the next issue of this Newsletter; in the meantime, write on your own for details.

WILLIAM SKIPPER of 1456 N. Mansfield, Hollywood 90028, writes that he has a late motion picture dealing with the life and work of Ruth St. Denis. Titled "The First Lady of the American Dance", it runs 90 min. in length, 16mm. color, full orchestral background and narrated by Miss Ruth herself. He offers to lecture "any length required" for a 60/40 percentage with sponsors supplying projector and publicity. He will be on a European tour in April and May.

CONNECTICUT

LOUISE MATTLAGE has been the subject or the author of several exciting bits of literature in the sacred dance field in recent months. Written about and exquisitely photographed in "The Westport News" and the "Honolulu Star Bulletin", Louise was also the author of a recent AGO magazine article titled "New Empathy for the Dance". Her Dancers of Faith have maintained their usual full schedule, with the addition of the Rev. Ashley Calhoun who divides pulpit responsibilities with dancing with role of Job in their presentation of the same title.

KATHARINE RUTGERS presented a program for the Contemporary Arts Club of Fairfield County and greater New York which included music and spoken word as accompaniment. Included were Corinthians 13, "A Prayer" (poem), Angelewsky's "Oh, Lord, Hear My Prayer", Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater", and the 91st and 23rd Psalms.

FLORIDA

HELEN MARIE GORDICH reports for the Miami Guild of Sacred Dance a full and varied season of activities. Highlights included a performance for the 100th anniversary of Universalism, participation in the University of Miami's "Festival of Medieval and Renaissance Music" at the University Methodist Church, an interview and performance on educational TV, their annual performance at the Spanish monastary in North Miami Beach, and three days of performances in mid-June in Washington, D.C. Helen writes, "In one of our new pieces, 'My Heart Leaps Up', we speak chorus-style as well as dance, and in 'Mirror' we perform in absolute silence. We have found both to be very effective with our audiences."

The Christ Lutheran Chancel Dancers under the direction of KATHLEEN POWELL danced in Cape Coral and Fort Myers churches throughout the past year, including youth programs, charitable causes, e.g., day-care centers, organizations such as the music teachers of Lee County, and Organists' Guild, etc. Kathleen writes, "'The Lord's Prayer' continues to be much in demand and our other short compositions designed for meditation, processionals and recessionals are well received. We re-designed 'The Lord's Prayer' to bring dancers from various places in the audiende to the altar area and then during the amens to send them quietly back to their seats again. This seemed very effective."

HAWAII

MARGARET TAYLOR CHANEY, now at Ewa Community Church in Ewa Beach, about 20 miles from Honolulu, reports working with a high school group of 24 boys and girls who took part in a dramatization of "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley in a Sunday morning service on March 28th. They are young Americans of Japanese, Filipino, Chinese and Caucasian backgrounds, reflecting the diversified heritage of the islands.

ILLINOIS

The Contemporary Dance Theater of Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, under the direction of JANET BOEH has developed two full worship services using guitar music, vocal improvisation, readings and silence as accompaniment for the dance. One service incorporates the congregation with movement at the end and the other service is based upon the racial theme. The group of fourteen is interracial and finds they have more invitations than they can accept.

JANE PLUM, director of the YWCA Dance Workshop in Bloomington has been busy writing, directing and choreographing her own material. "Choreospectrum" with electronic music composed by Abram M. Plum, and "Ode to the N.O.W." with taped sounds by Abram Plum will be presented in March and April at Illinois Wesleyan University.

ETHEL WINTER of the Martha Graham Company, affiliate artist at Point Park College, danced in services at the Second Congregational Church in Rockford, offering Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring".

FAITH CLARK's production class at Western Illinois University danced "O Happy Day" for a Roman Catholic mass on March 14th and again in a spring concert in June, together with "My Sweet Lord", and "Deep River".

MARYLAND

PHYLLIS JOHANNES of Baltimore is working with inner-city teenagers in a dance group names the Trinity Dancers since the minister at The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church has given them a home. For an Easter TV program they danced the 23rd Psalm and the Lord's Prayer; current projects include "Bless This House", "Bridge Over Troubled Waters", "Windmills of My Mind" and "Joy Is Like the Rain". Phyllis will be leader for the youth section of Camps Farthest Out at Silver Bay Camp from June 26-July 3.

IRENE SMITH of Rockville reports an exciting experience teaching dance at the Mias School in Baghdad, Iraq. Affiliated with St. Mary Magfalene Episcopal Church in Wheaton, Mrs. Smith visited Iraq with her husband who traveled there with the Atomic Energy Commission. She writes, "Even though the children of the school spoke almost no English, and I spoke no Arabic, there was great response to musical instrumentsm records and voice patterns which I used. The children had very little experience with movement, so their progress was most interesting. We had wonderful communication, and fun as we danced!"

MASSACHUSETTS

The Motion Choir of First Parish in Dorchester, CAROL DAVID, director, has presented "Exodus" in three parts with scripture readings and "The Story of the Nativity", a dance drama based on Matthew and Luke.

The Sacred Dance Choir of Winchendon's United Parish, CAYE MIZHIR, director, is preparing a worship service using Psalm 150, Psalm 23, "Turn, Turn, Turn", "Lord of the Dance", the beatitudes, Simon & Garfunkel's "Blessed" and "Sounds of Silence", the Lord's Prayer and "It's A Long Road to Freedom". Caye writes, "We have changed our costume from a long, white dress to leotards with penafores or tunics. We really feel liberated and have changed most of our choreography as a result."

JUDITH STAMES of First Parish Dance Group in Framingham writes that that group recently danced Simon & Garfunkel's "Sounds of Silence".

The Sacred Dance Choir of Springfield's St. John's Congregational Church, SYLVIA HUMPHREY and ANNA HATCHETT, directors, have danced "This Little Light of Mine", "Sweet Little Jesus Boy", "Turn, Turn, Turn", "Born Free", "I Believe" and "He's God the Whole World In His Hands".

MICHIGAN

Park Congregational Church in Grand Rapids presented Benjamin Britten's "Noye's Fludde" with GERRY SCHULTZ directing the dancers dancing the dove and the raven, as well as the many children in processing choirs, and designed the masks worn.

JO COOLEY of Hanover worked with non-dancing Girl Scouts to present movement inter-

pretations of brotherhood, the Lord's Prayer, and a prayer written and choreographed by a 6th grader for Girl Scout Sunday.

The Kalamazoo Sacred Dance Guild, directed by SARAH GERTZ, has worked with a variety of traditional and contemporary themes and music. Of special interest is their "Benedictus", of which Sarah writes, "Using the benediction and blessing movements of many religions the dancers exit from the church and join the minister in shaking the hands of the departing congregation, attempting to show that man must accept a great amount of responsibility for the world's alienation and loneliness."

The Festival Dancers of the Jewish Community Center, Detroit, are a semi-professional contemporary dance company with a broad repertory of modern dance works, including sacred dance and children's dance programs. The group is directed by HARRIET BERG who is Dance Coordinator of the Center. Their suite of religious dances includes a folk mass, Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" and Buffy Sainte Marie's "God Is Alive". They also perform a folk dance suite, "The Jews Are A Dancing People".

FORREST COGGAN produced "Earth-Trapped" at Michigan State University with H. Owen Reed, performed by a 15-piece ensemble, contralto and three dancers, one with an 18-minute dance solo. Together with Terry Bullard, the same team presented the myth-based "Ehe Ba Kun Ah" (Road of Souls) at Western Michigan University as part of a music conference, using string ensemble, concert band and seven dancers.

SISTER MARY AQUIN is now at the Kresge House of Prayer, Detroit, where much rhythmic activity is used in their spontaneous liturgy. The improvisations have been part of some deeply moving experiences. As Lumen Christi was sung during Easter Saturday liturgy, candles were lighted by the priest who passed them to altar boys, who passed them to sisters who cherished them and passed them on; in an outdoor ceremony for Ascension, candles were used in procession until the words "Lift up your hearts to the Lord", when the flames went out.

The Liturgical Choir of the United Central Methodist Church in Muskegon, MRS. JAMES RUSSELL, director, takes part in worship services, usually monthly, in their church and the past year they have used "What the World Needs Now", "The Fourth Wiseman" and "What Child Is This".

First United Methodist Liturgical Choir of Grand Rapids, directed by MRS. WILLIAM MUIR, is doing such contemporary numbers as "Mary's Boy Child", "Prayer for Free Society" (Malcolm Boyd), and the Beatles "Let It Be".

Workshops were sponsored by the Grand Rapids District Children's Council of the United Methodist Church in preparing church school teachers for three-month units of study. These workshops included sections on the arts in church school work, including story-telling, music, audiovisual helps, art projects and dance. PRISCILLA LUSSMYER of Douglas has taught the dance section, emphasizing getting started in dance with preschool and elementary age children. She says, "Pat Sonen's booklet 'Using Movement Creatively in Religious Education' is recommended as a 'must' in these sessions."

Clawson United Methodist Sacred Dance Choirs, directed by JANET A. LEE, presented a program for the Michigan Federated Music Club in Rochester on a Youth Night which featured American music. The program included Caldwell's "The Garden" and "Carol of the Little King", "By the Wayside" from Three Moravian Songs and "Cry in the Night."

MAXINE DeBRUYN reports the Holland Rhythmic Choir's most recent, ambitious and probably original, creation, "Giving Thanks", which was presented at the East Congregational Church's Family Life Service in April. She also reports, "Our most rewarding and revealing experience probably was the performance of "The Harmony of the Body" for the meeting of the deaf in Zeeland; the communication was incredible and a great experience for us".

The Dance Choir of First Presbyterian Church in Muskegon, VIRGINIA AUSTIN, director, followed the minister's sermon closing, "In the beginning ... God" with James Weldon Johnson's "The Creation". Organ music was used at some points, clapped rhythms at others. Virginia was also choreographer for the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp International Choir and Dancers, which toured England, Belgium, West Germany, Switzerland and Holland last summer. Danced numbers included "Pater Noster", "O, Freedom", "Choose Something Like A Star", "Laughing Song", "Aquarius" and "Michigan Morn".

At St. Andrews Cathedral in Grand Rapids an ecumenical service was held in which protestant ministers participated in the liturgy and a group of high school dancers of Spanish-American, Chinese and black origin danced the Lord's Prayer. They are also preparing dances of celebration for the 2nd Art Festival at Calder Plaza in June, as are the sisters at Marywood Academy and the First Methodist Church Liturgical Choir

The Michigan Methodist Conference Directors' Workshop and Children's Choir Camp was held at Wesley Woods Camp between Battle Creek and Hastings and was entitled "The Story of Man's Salvation" and included the seasons and holy days of the church year. "Alleluia", following reading from the 6th chapter of Romans, and "Dona Nobis Pacem", following the blessing at the end of the service, were danced by a group.

The Bushnell Sacred Dance Group, LYNDA KUBIK, director, sponsored by the Bushnell Congregational Church of Detroit, has presented "Sons and Daughters", "Black and White" and "Let's Get Together" at family nights in their church.

The Sacred Dance Group of First Presbyterian Church in Battle Creek has danced in worship services nearly every month this past season; the group has also performed as part of the musical "For Heaven's Sake". PENNY COLBURN, the group's director, writes, "perhaps one of the lovely happenings this last year was taking part in a massed choir festival held at our church with 500 singers from the Battle Creek area."

CINDY DOWNER of Traverse City was counselor to a junior high church camp and taught sacred dance to a group of girls only one or two years younger than herself. "Joy Is Like the Rain", "The Lord's Prayer", "Sounds of Silence" and "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" were numbers she used with the girls in various settings, using an autoharp and singing for musical background. They used the interpretation of the Lord's Prayer from Carl Burke's "Treat Me Cool, Lord" along with the traditional one, alternating passages from each.

MARGIE DUIVEN of Grand Rapids has a choir of girls in grades 4-8 which has danced The Lord's Prayer as part of a wedding ceremony.

DOROTHY WARN is assuming leadership of the Rhythmic Choir of East Congregational Church in Grand Rapids as VIRGINIA LUCKE is now teaching at Grand Valley State College.

MINNESOTA
A growing interest in sacred dance in this area is reported by VIRGINIA HUFFINE. At a Unitarian Religious Education Training Day in St. Paul last fall she led a workshop in the use of creative dance in church schools. During the closing service she presented a solo dance interpretation to the reading of two poems, "Honesty" and "Listening Silence", which related to the meeting's theme of Listening, Hearing, Responding. During the Christmas season she presented a dance-drama of "The Annunciation" to the reading of the Magnificat at a worship service at the Unitarian-Universalist Association, and also at a chapel service at the Calvary Episcopal Church School in Rochester.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
The Sacred Dance Group of the Marlborough Federated Church, PRISCILLA RICHARDSON, director, participated in the closing service of the annual 2-day meeting of the N.H. Conference of the United Church of Christ in Pembroke. The group was asked to show the conflict in the church at the present time using a recording by the Steppinwolf group titled "The Monster". A minister conceived the idea, with the choreography the work of the director. This type of service had never been tried and Priscilla writes, "those of us involved had a few anxious moments but were gratified to find the work well received and in many cases considered very moving."

NEW JERSEY
LUCILLE EGGERS of River Vale reports her group recently used two traditional Hebrew melodies or hymn tunes in correlation with a modern Hebrew service they presented.

NEW YORK
VIJA VETRA of New York City, danced in the royal family parish church, St. Martin's in the Fields in Trafalgar Square, London in a special vesper service sponsored by the Music Society of St. Martin's. She also appeared on CBS-TV's "Lamp Unto My Feet" in a half-hour program on meditation in movement and sound, with her own choreography and sound compositions, plus her own voice reciting haikus; title: "The Inward Eye". Vija also dances regularly as minister of dance at the Community Church of NYC.

JENNIFER BLAIR of NYC performs dances which involve the effort to unify acting and movement in a total interpretation of a spoken text. It is, in her words, "a form of witnessing to various aspects of God's truth and man's condition both his glory and his suffering. She has danced poems from "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men" by Carl Sandburg and is working on "A Day of Miracles",a book edited by Richard Lewis, and "Dance of Eucharist" for the fall of '71.

ANN POMEROY's Sacred Dance Choir of First Congregational Church, Chappaqua, gave "I Don't Know How to Love Him" from "Christ in the Concrete City", and "Lord of the Dance" for Palm Sunday and a special family service.

DORIS THURSTON of NYC appears in a half-hour film on multimedia worship from the Point of View series sponsored by the Archdiocese of N.Y. last fall. The interview with Miss Thurston combines music, movement, visual arts (her paintings, "The Beatitudes" in the background) with performances by children and youth with whom she has worked in the inner city. John Giancola of the National Council of Churches comments on the program, "A true worship experience, offering gifts to the man on the street to do himself."

The Huntington Dancers of Faith, VIRA KLAWE, director, danced at the Concord Hotel

for a conference of the National Music Association. Vira writes of the program, which was titled "The Uses of Music in the Ethnic, Seasonal and Religious Fields", "We fortunately had access, through Syrian friends, to actual Arabic movements and music used in the dervish dances, secret societies of which still exist. Dervish are an offshoot of Mohammedanism, and their unique circling and whirling and beating movements are designed to increase intensity of desire to communicate with God. Originals ended their dances in prostration and trance -- WE DO NOT!"

The Wesleyan Dancers of Amityville, BETTY DEAN HYDON, director, have completed a full season and covered many miles. Most frequently performed works have been "Reconciliation In A Broken World", "The Prophets", which has been presented for both Jewish and Christian groups, "The Passion" and "Celebration of the Christ-Mass". Dances in "The Prophets" include dance of affirmation, the creation, Abraham's sacrifice, dance of the faithless, dance of destruction, dance of expectation and dance of the faithful. Music ranges from Baez to Bruckner and Bernstein.

The Dancers of St. Mark's (Rockville Centre), WENDY HARTMAN, director, is a newly formed dance choir which first danced several carols at a Christmas family evening. They have since danced in a special service to celebrate the baptism of the two daughters and newborn son of one of the dancers, LANE BOSWELL. The service included songs by the Medical Mission Sisters, "Howl, My Soul", "Come to the Spring of Living Water", "Joy Is Like the Rain" and "It's a Long Road to Freedom". "Spirit of God" was the baptism dance, danced by Lane and infant son , with the daughters, father and minister involved at the end in a presentation of the children. The day? Mother's Day, of course!

The Wesleyan Dancers of Newburgh, JUDITH BENNETT, director, have completed another full season in the sacred dance field and continue to attempt to fill a cultural vacuum in their area by doubling as the Cornwall Children's Dance Theater and experimenting with quality dance productions for children.

NORTH CAROLINA

FRAN SULLIVAN reports her group at the First United Methodist Church in Charlotte has danced in their own church and others, using most recently Schubert's "The Omnipotence", a modern version of the Lord's Prayer and Gounod's "Sanctus".

ILLINOIS

FAITH CLARK, formerly of Normal and now of Macomb, is new co-ordinator of dance at Western Illinois University.

JANE PLUM of Bloomington has worked with her group to present "The Conjure Circle", a morality tale for dancers, folk dances to music sung by a boys' choir, "A Stage Is A Special Place", a dance-poem which she wrote and which was inspired by Doris Humphrey's The Art of Making Dances.

BARBARA ULIN of St. Charles has been involved in sacred dance for two years and says she is often inspired by music she hears, e.g., a New England folk hymn inspired her to involve the comgregation - men and women - after teaching them the words.

OHIO

RUTH NOBEL, JEANNE JEANDHEUR and CAROLYN OLDS have collaborated on several dance services in Cleveland, Bucksville churches, including "No Man Is An Island", "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring", "Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler", and two poems, "God, Let Me Be Aware" and "Push Out the Walls".

First United Methodist Church of Middletown has a musical organization called PROMISES, which consists of a singing choir, a handbell choir and a dance choir. The dance choir is made up mostly of adults with three men involved, and they present a complete service of worship including hymns, scripture, sermon, etc. PROMISES, which stands for "People Relating Our Mission in Study, Extension and Service", took a musical mission to Japan in 1969 and toured in the northeastern part of that country; they are now in the process of preparing another such venture for the summer of 1972. While in Japan they are houseguests of Japanese families. This church also has a rhythmic choir composed of high school age girls who participate in morning worship services occasionally, and at the Christmas Eve service. CLEMENT R. BURTON is the director of these activities.

PATRICIA TRIBBIE, director of the First United Presbyterian Church Liturgical Dance Choir reports they have three groups - children from grades 1-4, a group from grades 5-8, and a senior high group. They have used the "Parable of Walter Fish", "Mumblin Word", "Crucifixation" and "Children's Parables", along with traditional material.

The Fairlawn Community Church Dance Choir in Akron, directed by MARIE NOLF and PAT GREEN, has an entire service of worship in dance which they have presented on several occasions, besides participating in ecumenical services and dancing "Blowin' in the Wind" for a high school baccalaureate.

VIRGINIA

Orchesis of West Virginia University has on video tape two dances of interest to SDG: "Shalom", choreographed by Charles Sheik, 'a romantic story through the medium of dance using the folk element of movement with creative interpretation'; "Ecclesiastes" to the music of Normal Dello Joio. It may be possible to rent this video tape for a reasonable fee through nearby university facilities. Write to Mrs. Mary K. Wiedebusch, Assistant Prof. of Phys. Ed., West Virginia U., Morgantown, W. Va. 26505

The First Baptist Interpretive Movement Choir of Charlottesville, JAMES FOSTER, director, has danced "What's God Like" from the folk musical "Tell It Like It Is" by Ralph Carmichael, and presented "Jesus Christ, Superstar, accompanied by rock ensemble and chorus on Good Friday.

NANCY BROCK reports that the Chapel Dance Choir of Roanoke College Chapel in Salem collaborated with the Collegium Musicum to present "The Play of Herod", liturgical music from the 12th century. Nancy writes: "The Play of Herod' consists of two short plays, the 'Representation of Herod' and the 'Slaying of the Children', both from the 12th century manuscript known as the 'Fleury play-book'. They were a form of religious instruction for illiterate audiences and were originally performed by the men and boys of the choir school attached to the monastery of Fleury in France. There is no spoken text, and all of the singing is in Latin. Originally the singers also mimed their roles, but in this production all the action was by the dance choir. The action of the first part followed the story of the nativity, the visits of the shepherds and the three kings to the manger -- the latter stopping at Herod's court en route. The second part is concerned with Herod's decision to massacre the innocents, their killing by the soldiers, and the lament of Rachel and the other mothers." Costumes were lavish, colorful, and as close to 12th century models as possible. The movement, choreographed by Nancy, was also stylized to give the effect of medieval paintings.

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